



Minutes

Southland District Council

Wednesday, 4 March 2026, 10am.

Council Chamber, Level 2, 20 Don Street, Invercargill

PRESENT

Mayor	Rob Scott
Deputy mayor	Christine Menzies
Councillors	Jaspreet Boparai
	Don Byars
	Phil Dobson
	Paul Duffy
	Sarah Greaney
	Julie Keast
	Tom O'Brien
	Brian Somerville
	Jon Spraggon
	Michael Weusten
	Matt Wilson

APOLOGIES

Councillor Sarah Greaney (lateness)
Councillor Don Byars (early departure)
Councillor Paul Duffy (early departure)

IN ATTENDANCE

Committee advisor	Fiona Dunlop
Chief executive	Cameron McIntosh

1 Opening

The Mayor opened the meeting with a karakia.

2 Apologies

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Greaney and apologies for an early departure from Councillors Byars and Duffy.

Resolved

Moved Mayor Scott/Cr Menzies

That Council receive the apologies.

Carried

3 Leave of absence

Councillor Weusten requested a leave of absence from 26 to 31 March 2026.

Councillor Dobson advised that his previously approved leave of absence was now postponed and would advise of new dates in due course.

Resolved

Moved Mayor Scott/Cr O'Brien

That Council agree the leave of absence request for Councillor Weusten.

Carried

4 Conflict of interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5 Additional agenda items

There were no additional agenda items.

6 Confirmation of minutes

Resolved

Moved Cr Dobson/Cr Somerville

That the Council confirms the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2026 as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Carried

7 Public participation

There was no public participation.

Reports

8.1 Local Alcohol Policy deliberations

Record No: R/26/2/4333

Report presented by Senior policy analyst, Ana Bremer.

The purpose of the report was to provide information to Council to deliberate and make decisions on matters raised through the consultation process for the Local Alcohol Policy 2026.

(During discussion, Councillor Spraggon joined the meeting at 10.12am.)

(During discussion, Councillor Greaney joined the meeting at 10.20am.)

Recommendations a to f were moved by Councillor Dobson and seconded by Councillor Weusten.

Resolved

Moved Cr Dobson/Cr Weusten

That Council:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.
- b) notes that the matter or decision in this report is assessed as significant based on Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. Council has already undertaken public engagement via the SCP process and has held hearings. This report continues the review process.
- c) determines that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with Section 79 of the act determines that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.

- d) considers the feedback received on the draft Local Alcohol Policy 2026
- e) agree option 1 – that Council deliberate the recommendations presented and recommend the Draft Local Alcohol Policy 2026 progresses to adoption

Carried

Amendment

Moved Cr Wilson/Cr Boparai the following amendment

That Council

- f) for the matters consulted on, agree:
 - i) Trading hours – off-licences ~~set new hours from 9am until 10pm on the same day (reduced –~~ **from 7am until 11pm on the same day.)**

Carried.

Staff recommendation was moved with changes as **indicated**.

Councillor Dobson requested that his dissenting vote be recorded.

Resolved

Moved Cr Dobson/Cr Weusten

That Council:

- f) for the matters consulted on, agree:
 - ii) Trading hours – on-licences – other - removing the “no restrictions” wording

Carried

Resolved

Moved Cr Dobson/Cr Weusten

That Council:

- f) for the matters consulted on, agree:
 - iii) Sensitive places – including health centres, rehabilitation centres, Marae, and Fale Pasifika in the definition of sensitive places

Carried

Resolved

Moved Cr Dobson/Cr Weusten

That Council:

- f) for the matters consulted on, agree:
 - iv) Sensitive premises – no evidence of consultation required for new applications on existing premises for change of ownership **and without any changes in operations**

Carried

Staff recommendation was moved with changes as **indicated**.

Resolved

Moved Cr Dobson/Cr Weusten

That Council:

- f) for the matters consulted on, agree:
 - v) Discretionary provisions – addition of consideration of glass vessels at special events

Carried

Resolved

Moved Cr Dobson/Cr Weusten

That Council:

- f) for the matters consulted on, agree:
 - vi) Timeframe for review – reducing the next review period to four years, with the following cycle returning to six years.

Carried

Final resolution

That Council:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.
- b) notes that the matter or decision in this report is assessed as significant based on Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. Council has already undertaken public engagement via the SCP process and has held hearings. This report continues the review process.
- c) determines that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with Section 79 of the act determines that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.
- d) considers the feedback received on the draft Local Alcohol Policy 2026
- e) agree option 1 – that Council deliberate the recommendations presented and recommend the Draft Local Alcohol Policy 2026 progresses to adoption
- f) for the matters consulted on, agree:
 - i) Trading hours – off-licences –from 7am until 11pm on the same day
 - ii) Trading hours – on-licences – other - removing the “no restrictions” wording
 - iii) Sensitive places – including health centres, rehabilitation centres, Marae, and Fale Pasifika in the definition of sensitive places
 - iv) Sensitive premises – no evidence of consultation required for new applications on existing premises for change of ownership and without any changes in operations

- v) Discretionary provisions – addition of consideration of glass vessels at special events
- vi) Timeframe for review – reducing the next review period to four years, with the following cycle returning to six years.

8.2 Draft Statements of Intent 2026/2027 for Great South and Space Operations NZ

Record No: R/26/2/38447

Report presented by Democracy advisor, Michal Gray with GM strategy and partnerships Vibhuti Chopra in attendance.

The purpose of the report was to present Council with the draft statements of intent for 2026/2027 from Great South and Space Operations New Zealand Limited and for Council to consider whether to endorse the joint response to the drafts.

During discussion, staff advised that the budget for regional development in the 2026/2027 financial year is \$1,297,827.

Resolved

Moved Cr O'Brien/Cr Dobson

That the Council:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.
- b) notes that the matter or decision in this report is assessed as moderate importance based on Council's Significance and Engagement Policy . On this basis community engagement will not be undertaken.
- c) determines that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with Section 79 of the act determines that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.
- d) receives the draft Statement of Intents for Southland Regional Development Agency Limited (Great South) and Space Operations New Zealand Limited for 2026/2027.
- e) endorses the joint letter of response to the draft Statement of Intents as recommended to Council by the Great South Joint Shareholders Committee.

Carried

Councillor Boparai requested that her dissenting vote be recorded.

(Councillor Byars left the meeting at 10.50am.)

8.3 Appointment of members to the Ohai Railway Fund Committee and Te Anau Water Supply Subcommittee

Record No: R/26/2/74295

Report presented by Democracy advisor, Michal Gray with GM strategy and partnerships Vibhuti Chopra in attendance.

The purpose of the report was for Council to appoint members to the Ohai Railway Fund Committee and to the Te Anau Basin Water Supply Subcommittee.

Resolved

Moved Cr Boparai/Cr Dobson

That the Council:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.
- b) notes that the matter or decision in this report is assessed as some importance based on Council's Significance and Engagement Policy . On this basis no engagement will be undertaken.
- c) determines that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with Section 79 of the act determines that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.
- d) appoints Alanna Barrett, Shane Robertson, Kevin Dixon and Kevin Curtain as members of the Ohai Railway Fund Committee.
- e) appoints Luke Thomas, Grant Bolger, Shane Buchanan, Craig Horrell, Jason Robson, Andrew Taberner and Luke Wright to the Te Anau Basin Water Supply Subcommittee.

Carried

8.4 Mayor's report

Record No: R/26/1/1697

Mayor Scott spoke to his report.

Mayor Scott updated on the many events/meetings that he had been involved with from mid-August 2025 to December 2025.

Councillor Greaney advised that Connect Murihiku that had been established as a regional initiative to strengthen connection, capability, and collaboration across the Southland community and social sector, will be concluding its work on 20 March 2026, with key capability-building functions transitioning to Community Trust South.

Councillor Dobson advised that he had attended the first meeting as the council representative on the Stadium Southland Trust.

Councillor Duffy advised that he had attended a meeting of the Regional Heritage Building and Preservation Trust.

Councillor Wilson advised that the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail Trust had recently hosted the New Zealand Cycle Trail Trust.

Robin McCall, chair of the Ōraka Aparima Community Board and Pam Yorke, chair of the Waihōpai Toetoe Community Board were in attendance to update on the activities of their Boards.

Both chairs raised issues they had with NZTA. Mayor Scott advised that he would write a letter of support for each issue.

(During discussion, Councillor Byars returned to the meeting at 10.53am.)

Resolved

Moved Mayor Scott/Cr Spraggon

That the Council:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.
- b) agree that Mayor Scott writes a letter of support to the Ōraka Aparima Community Board request for a speed limit change on State Highway 99 between Shrewsbury Street and the Riverton town boundary 100km/h.
- c) agree that Mayor Scott write a letter of support for the Waihōpai Toetoe Community Board letter to Members of Parliament requesting maintenance be undertaken on the roundabout at State Highway 1 Edendale.

Carried

Staff recommendations were moved with changes as **indicated**.

8.5 Management report March 2026

Record No: R/26/2/4100

Chief Executive, Cameron McIntosh presented the management report.

The purpose of the report was to provide an update on recent staff activity across Council.

See further down the minutes for the resolution on the management report for March 2026

Staff recommendations

That Council:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.

8.7 Waste Management and Minimisation Plan for Consultation

Record No: R/26/2/101091

Report presented by GM Infrastructure and Capital Delivery, Fran Mikulicic, Manager operations water and waste services, Grant Isaacs and WasteNet director, Fiona Walker.

This report seeks approval to proceed with a public consultation process and provides Council with the draft Southland Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2026-2032 for consultation.

Resolved

Moved Cr Greaney/Cr Dobson

That Council:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.
- b) notes that the matter or decision in this report is assessed as significant based on Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. On this basis consultation with the community will occur.
- c) determines that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with Section 79 of the act determines that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.
- d) notes and receives the Medical Officer of Health feedback contained in the 2025 Southland Regional Waste Assessment (p118) in accordance with the stipulations of Waste Minimisation Act 2008 Clause 51(5)(b).
- e) notes the Waste Advisory Group decision to revoke and substitute the Southland Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2020-2026 in accordance with the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 Clauses 44 and 50(3)(a).
- f) agrees to revoke and substitute the Southland Waste Management and Minimisation Plan in accordance with the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 Clauses 44 and 50(3)(a).
- g) adopts the Draft Southland Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2026 – 2032 for consultation.
- h) agrees to a Joint Hearing Panel comprised of the Waste Advisory Group representatives from each participating council, being two representatives from each WasteNet council.
- i) notes that if the other WasteNet parties do not proceed options will need to be reassessed.

Carried

(Councillor Byars left the meeting at 11.59am.)

8.5 Management report March 2026 (continued)

Record No: R/26/2/4100

Discussion on the management report for March 2026 continued.

(During discussion, Councillor Byars returned to the meeting at 12.01pm.)

(During discussion, Councillor Weusten left the meeting at 12.02pm and returned at 12.04pm.)

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.34pm and reconvened at 1.09pm.)

Resolved

Moved Mayor Scott/Cr O'Brien

That Council:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.

Carried

(Councillor Duffy left the meeting at 2.16pm.)

8.6 Spatial Plan update

Record No: R/26/2/100530

Report presented by Intermediate policy analyst, Theresa Cavanagh and GM strategy and partnerships, Vibhuti Chopra.

The purpose of the report was to provide an update on the Spatial Plan project and changes made as a result of the recent Resource Management Reform announced by Central Government.

Resolved

Moved Cr Keast/Cr Wilson

That Council:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.
- b) endorses the approach being undertaken by staff and thanks them for their work.

Carried

Staff recommendations were moved with changes as indicated.

Public excluded

Exclusion of the public: Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

Resolved

Moved Mayor Scott/Cr Menzies

That the public be excluded from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting.

9.1 Clarification of solid waste services – procurement options resolution made at council on 25 February 2026

9.2 Future of 15 Forth Street Invercargill property

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Clarification of solid waste services – procurement options resolution made at council on 25 February 2026	s7(2)(b)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.	That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists.
Future of 15 Forth Street Invercargill property	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists.

Carried

The meeting went into public excluded at 2.43pm.

(Councillor Spraggon left the meeting at 3.10pm.)

(Councillor Byars left the meeting at 3.16pm.)

(Councillor Dobson left the meeting at 3.20pm.)

The meeting closed at 3.34pm.

Confirmed on: 25 March 2026.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Smith'.